

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 664  
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to express our deepest pride in all Tennesseans who served in the Korean War upon the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the war.

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by individuals who were willing to sacrifice themselves and set aside their personal needs and concerns in order to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism and altruism through service in all branches of the United States Armed Forces; these individuals selflessly have served and continue to serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, since the development of modern nation-states, the fabric of international diplomacy has been complex and densely interwoven; the terrain has been treacherous, and our nation has been called upon to act judiciously and with earnest resolve in order to protect the institution of democracy and to make the world safe for the advancement of personal and political freedom for the expanse of the diverse human family; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, as Communist North Korean forces invaded Democratic South Korea, thousands of young Americans travelled across the globe to defend the ideals that we Americans hold so dear; and

WHEREAS, these intrepid men and women unselfishly paid the price of freedom for their friends, families, and all of us as they sacrificed their time, safety, and personal desires, and, in many instances, their lives; as war disrupted the peace and prosperity of American life, these individuals entered the fray on our behalf and on behalf of democracy worldwide, boldly and without hesitation or complaint, just as they left behind the enduring warmth of family and home; and

WHEREAS, spanning the turbulent years between June 25, 1950, and July 27, 1953, the Korean War involved 22 nations from around the world; and

WHEREAS, the war proved to be one of the bloodiest conflicts in United States history, as our country lost 54,269 brave young souls to combat and suffered the tragedy of 103,000 wounded soldiers; to this day, 8,177 American combatants remain missing in action; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,600 Tennesseans served from Blount County alone, and the war claimed the lives of over 800 of Tennessee's native sons and daughters, 15 of whom were from Blount County; and

WHEREAS, these servicemen and women served with courage and gallantry and deserve proper recognition for their heroism both in the Korean War and in our society, as they endured the Great Depression, served their beloved country, came home and engaged in work and further education, married, and raised families; and

WHEREAS, the veterans of the Korean War performed these noble duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and patriotism, and their service can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, this summer, on July 27, 2003, the world will witness the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the truce that officially ended the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces who fought in the Korean War to preserve the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the veterans of the Korean War from Tennessee for their meritorious service on behalf of democracy across the globe and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.